

retrieving a biometric record from the storage device; and
confirming that the biometric information is consistent with the biometric record to identify the person as authorized to use the wireless device.

20. The wireless device recited in claim 18 further comprising a biometric system adapted to read biometric information from a person initiating the wireless communication, wherein the controller is further adapted to transmit the biometric information with the antenna to the host system.

21. The wireless device recited in claim 18 further comprising an electromagnetic identification device adapted to transmit an electromagnetic identification code for the wireless device, wherein the controller is further adapted to transmit the electromagnetic identification code with the antenna to the host system.

22. A method of performing a transaction, the method comprising:

receiving at a point-of-sale device a specification of terms for the transaction, the terms including a transaction amount and an identification of a wireless device;

wirelessly transmitting at least some of the terms from the point-of-sale device to the identified wireless device, the at least some of the terms including the transaction amount;

wirelessly receiving at the point-of-sale device from the wireless device information identifying a financial account to be used in supporting the transaction;

transmitting a request for approval of the transaction to a financial institution, the request for approval including an identification of the financial account and the transaction amount; and

receiving an approval of the transaction from the financial institution.

23. The method recited in claim 22 wherein:

the financial account comprises a credit account; and

the financial institution transfers funds to a merchant account and augments an outstanding balance of the credit account.

24. The method recited in claim 22 wherein:

the financial account comprises a debit account; and

the financial institution transfers funds to a merchant account and decrements a balance of the debit account.

25. The method recited in claim 22 wherein:

the financial account comprises a stored-value account; and

the financial institution transfers funds to a merchant account and decrements a balance of the stored-value account.

26. The method recited in claim 22 wherein:

the information received at the point-of-sale device from the wireless device comprises biometric information read from a person operating the wireless device; and

the request for approval of the transaction includes the biometric information to enable the financial institution to compare the biometric information with a stored biometric record associated with the financial account in approving the transaction.

27. The method recited in claim 22 further comprising printing a receipt of the transaction by the point-of-sale device.

28. The method recited in claim 22 wherein the wireless device comprises a cellular telephone.

29. A method of performing a transaction, the method comprising:

wirelessly receiving terms for a transaction at a wireless device from a point-of-sale device, the terms including a transaction amount;

receiving at the wireless device a specification of an account transaction mechanism to be used in supporting the transaction;

retrieving information related to the account transaction mechanism from a storage device comprised by the wireless device, the information including an identification of a financial account; and

wirelessly transmitting the information to the point-of-sale device.

30. The method recited in claim 29 further comprising:

measuring biometric information with the wireless device from a person operating the wireless device;

retrieving a biometric record from the storage device; and

confirming that the biometric information is consistent with the biometric record to identify the person as authorized to use the wireless device.

31. The method recited in claim 29 further comprising:

measuring biometric information with the wireless device from a person operating the wireless device; and

transmitting the biometric information from the wireless device to the point-of-sale device.

32. A wireless device comprising:

an antenna for wirelessly transmitting and receiving electromagnetic signals;

an input device operable by a person operating the wireless device; and

a controller coupled with a storage device and adapted to control the antenna and input device to perform a transaction in accordance with the following:

wirelessly receiving terms for a transaction from a point-of-sale device with the antenna;

receiving a specification of an account transaction mechanism to be used in supporting the transaction from the input device;

retrieving information related to the account transaction mechanism from the storage device, the information including an identification of a financial account; and

wirelessly transmitting the information to the point-of-sale device with the antenna.

33. The wireless device recited in claim 32 further comprising a biometric system adapted to read biometric information from the person operating the wireless device, wherein the controller is further adapted for:

retrieving a biometric record from the storage device; and